

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South.

**ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE**

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Aaron Jewett (for Bill McLaughlin)	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Kas Manderle (for Christie McOmber)	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Galen Amy (for Craig Raymond)	Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Alex Dachs (for Bruce Treis)	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
Dave Dobbs	City of Great Falls Engineer
Jim Ekberg	Cascade County Planning Department
John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Carol Strizich	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT

Recognition of Others Present:

Garrett Norman	Planner I, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services
Scott Randall	Robert Peccia and Associates
Kenn Winegar	Helena MDT Planning (via phone)

**MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the March 20, 2014 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of March 20, 2014 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Lyerly  
Second: Mr. Finch

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

Prior to the meeting, TAC members were provided with copies of the TAC meeting agenda. Copies of the agenda and handout materials are attached and incorporated by reference.

### 5A. TIP Update Process

Mr. Finch said that one of the most important projects this summer is a new Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). The TIP needs to be in compliance with the Long Range Transportation Plan Update (LRTP). Ken Winegar with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) in Helena will provide project costs estimates and phasing. Mr. Finch said they think the Fox Farm project will eat up the commitment of Urban funds over the next five years. He said he would like interested individuals from this group (TAC) to volunteer to identify new projects to the TAC at the July meeting. It was agreed that Mr. Finch will send out a group email request for any interested volunteers.

### 5B. I-15 Corridor Study

Mr. Finch said the LRTP and MDT identified some frustration by drivers and stakeholders with some of the interchanges and functionality of the I-15 corridor through Great Falls. He said this is not a project to be included in the TIP because it is not a capital improvement project but a planning project, so MDT in Helena moved forward to engage a consultant, Robert Peccia and Associates (RPA), to guide the corridor study through the process.

Scott Randall with RPA presented information on the study. Mr. Randall said MDT has a corridor study process and RPA is looking at the whole corridor, what the constraints might be, such as land and environmental constraints, what the needs are and whether it is just improving an intersection or if improvement involves the whole system. RPA follows a process module developed by MDT for performing a corridor study. They will perform traffic counts as well as looking at environmental impacts.

Mr. Randall said the kick-off group meeting will be next week; there will be two public meetings scheduled during the process. He said there have been about 20 corridor studies done in Montana. He concluded his overview of the project and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Finch said he is serving on the steering committee and said there was room on that committee for anyone wishing to be actively involved. Mr. Randall said there are also stakeholders involved and RPA will be reaching out to engage them.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Finch said the Airport is working with MDT on Airport Drive to see if MDT-the Airport can take over maintenance responsibilities while keeping it an urban system. That would allow the Airport to expend FAA dollars on the roadway and make improvements that will help the functionality of the main entrance to the airport.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lyerly made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Turnbow. All being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.